

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 DRC-01 EUR-25 SSO-00 /120 W

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O R 081004Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9940

AMCONSUL ASMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 7859

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, ET

SUBJECT: PROJECT HOPE

REF: ADDIS 7815 (NOTAL)

1. PLEASE CONTACT DR. WILLIAM WALSH, DIRECTOR OF PROJECT HOPE, IMMEDIATELY AT HILTON HOTEL AND DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME, TO WHICH EARLIEST REPLY THROUGH EMBASSY WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

2. I HAVE JUST BEEN TALKING TO DR. JOHN MOORE, WHO WILL DEPART FOR ROME TOMORROW MORNING IF POSSIBLE. HE TOLD ME OF HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTRY OF HEALTH, OF THE MINISTER'S ATTITUDE THAT A PROJECT IN ASMARA IS NECESSARY IF HOPE IS TO OPERATE AT ALL IN ETHIOPIA, OF YOUR CONSEQUENT DECISION LAST SATURDAY THAT HOPE PERSONNEL SHOULD IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAW FROM ADDIS, AND ALSO OF THE DECISION TO CANCEL YOUR VISIT TO ADDIS BEGINNING JULY 10.

3. I HAVE ALWAYS REGRETTED THAT YOU WERE NOT IN ETHIOPIA WHEN YOU WERE REACHING YOUR ORIGINAL DECISION TO CANCEL THE PROJECT AT ASMARA BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT DISCUSSIONS OF THE SUBJECT HERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MUTUALLY USEFUL. I WILL ALSO FEEL GREAT REGRET UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IF YOU DO NOT VISIT ADDIS ABABA TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS DIRECTLY WITH THE OFFICIALS CONCERNED AND THEN MAKE YOUR DECISION HERE.

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4. FAILURE TO PROCEED WITH YOUR VISIT MAY UNNECESSARILY SACRIFICE AN OPPORTUNITY WHICH COULD MEAN MUCH FOR ETHIOPIA AND FOR PROJECT HOPE. EVEN THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT IS MUCH DISTRESSED BY CANCELLATION OF THE ASMARA PROJECT (AS MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CALLED ME IN TO STATE ON JULY 3), AND HAS USED SOME EXPRESSIONS WHICH DR. MOORE LIKENS TO "ULTIMATUMS", I AM BY NO MEANS CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PLANS FOR HOPE ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA DURING THE COURSE OF YOUR VISIT. THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE ARE SO GREAT THAT IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY FOR THEM TO LOSE WHAT PROJECT HOPE HAS TO OFFER IF THAT CAN POSSIBLY BE AVOIDED. FROM HOPE'S STANDPOINT, DR. MOORE TELLS ME THAT HIS GROUP HERE HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAKE EFFECTIVE PROGRESS IN RECENT WEEKS.

5. WHETHER OR NOT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT AT THIS TIME, I BELIEVE IT WOULD MAKE A FAR BETTER IMPRESSION ON THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT UP THROUGH THE HIGHEST LEVELS IF YOU CAN DISCUSS THE MATTER PERSONALLY HERE RATHER THAN SEND THE DECISION FROM AFAR. THE COMBINATION OF CANCELLING ALL HOPE PLANS FOR ETHIOPIA AND CANCELLING YOUR VISIT AS WELL WOULD LEAVE THE MOST UNFAVORABLE POSSIBLE IMPRESSION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT HERE, AN IMPRESSION IN WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD ALSO BE SOMEWHAT INVOLVED IN ETHIOPIAN EYES.
WYMAN

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